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ALI...CIA
SHE DOESN'T HAVE AS MANY NIGHT-MARES AS SHE USED TO
WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER.
!?
FATE-CHAN
...
FATE-CHAN HAS BEEN PLAGUED WITH NIGHT MARES
FROM A VERY YOUNG AGE.
grab

FATE-CHAN IS MY MOST DEAREST FRIEND
I DON'T THINK I WILL LOSE TO ANYONE WITH THESE FEELINGS
FOR ME,
I STILL DON'T KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT HER FAMILIES
DESPITE THAT
THAT MUST BE BECAUSE
IT'S A VERY DEEP PART OF HERSELF THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE OR TOUCH

I HAVE DECIDED TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HER
EVEN SO
JUST LIKE FATE-CHAN
WITH HER PAST
AND THE FACT THAT SHE HAS DECIDED TO
BEAR THAT SADNESS FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE

AS HER BEST FRIEND
THAT IS THE ONLY OPTION FOR ME.
... IT,
WAIT!
THAT'S NOT RIGHT
FATE-CHAN!
THIS GIRL
SHE'S NOT FATE-CHAN

THANK YOU.
YOU ARE
EH?
AH!
THEN YOU MUST BE
I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED
THAT I COULD FINALLY MEET YOU ONE DAY.
.....
WHY?

WHY ARE YOU HERE IN MY DREAM...?
ALICIA-SAN?
.....
BECAUSE I CAN'T DO THIS ON MY OWN...

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU
FOR FATE'S SAKE.

NANOHA?

WHEN I'M LOOKING FOR FATE
I USE YOU AS MY BEACON
.....
AND IN ORDER TO FIND SIRIUS
ONE MUST FIRST LOCATE ORION.
YOU ARE INDISPENSABLE
BECAUSE YOU ARE THE BEACON THAT'S GUIDING HER.

MORIN'
IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO SLEEP IN
EVEN IF IT'S STILL EARLY
N
THANK GOODNESS I BROUGHT MY UNIFORM.
I FEEL LIKE I HAVEN'T BEEN TO SCHOOL IN FOREVER SINCE I'VE BEEN SO BUSY...
SPEAK-ING OF WHICH
EH?
FATE-CHAN HAVE YOU GROWN TALLER?

PROFILE
FATE-CHAN'S BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP SOON.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW...

WAS SOMETHING ALICIA WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE.
UP UNTIL NOW
THE ONLY DAY I CAN THINK OF AS MY BIRTHDAY
THE THINGS MY SISTER GAVE ME
HER FACE WAS SO SAD AS SHE TOLD ME THIS
I WANT TO REPAY HER FOR EVERY-THING.

AND I WANTED TO TURN THAT SAD EXPRESSION
HEY FATE-CHAN
DO YOU KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS TODAY?
INTO A HAPPY ONE INSTEAD
AND SO
WE BOTH DECIDED ON A NEW BIRTHDAY FOR HER.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THINKING
EVER SINCE OUR FIRST MEETING
Hallucination
WHAT EXACTLY CAN I DO
FOR FATE-CHAN?
IS THAT THE NEXT LESSON PLAN?
HAYATE-CHAN
YAHO!
YEP!
HALLU-CINATION HUH?

SOMETHING THE NEXT GROUP OF STUDENTS CAN DO?
YEP!
IT'S STILL SOMEWHAT RARE FOR THEM TO HAVE THESE SKILLS ALREADY. I'M LEARNING AS I TEACH TOO.
AS EXPECTED, I THINK I'LL HAVE TO GIVE THEM EACH THEIR OWN TRAINING.
hrm
IF WE TRAIN THEM WELL ENOUGH THEY'LL BECOME GREAT FIGHTERS!
THEY CAN IMPROVE IN THE AREAS THEY EXCEL IN!
NYAHAHA
IT'LL STILL DEPEND ON MS. NANOHA'S TEACHING THOUGH!

HUH?
SAY, HAYATE-CHAN...
!
SHOULD I STILL HOPE TO SEE ALICIA-SAN AGAIN?
EVEN IF IT'S CLEAR THAT IT'S A HALLUCI-NATION
!
WHAT?
S-SORRY FOR SUDDEN-LY
DON'T WORRY, I'M JUST A LITTLE BIT SURPRISED THAT'S ALL
HOW CURIOUS FOR NANOHA-CHAN TO ASK ME A QUESTION LIKE THIS
I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS NO WAY THIS CAN BE POSSIBLE.
UM

EVEN THOUGH I CAN NEVER SEE HER AGAIN
THAT'S RIGHT
I KNOW THAT, TOO
BUT I DON'T HAVE THOUGHTS LIKE "I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER."
I'LL NEVER THINK THAT WAY
THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU...
OR JUST AN ILLUSION
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A DREAM

I WANT TO LIVE HAPPILY.
AND GOING THROUGH ALL THE PAIN AND SUFFERING
RATHER THAN TRYING TO SEE THAT GIRL AGAIN
OVER ALL THE POSSIBILITIES OF BRINGING HER BACK TO LIFE
AND INSTEAD OF STRESSING MYSELF
I'D RATHER THINK ABOUT OUR HAPPY MEMORIES!
THEY ARE MOST DEFINITELY NOT AN ILLUSION OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT AT ALL!
THE HAPPY FEELINGS OF SEEING THAT GIRL AGAIN

EVEN IF THESE ARE THE ONLY MEANINGFUL THINGS I CAN DO
THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
EH? YOU ARE SLEEPY ALREADY?
YEA.
LISTEN
I'VE BEEN HAVING DREAMS OF ALICIA LATELY
SHE'S ALWAYS FACING ME IN THESE DREAMS.
IT LOOKED LIKE SHE'S TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING
BUT I CAN NEVER HEAR ANYTHING AT ALL

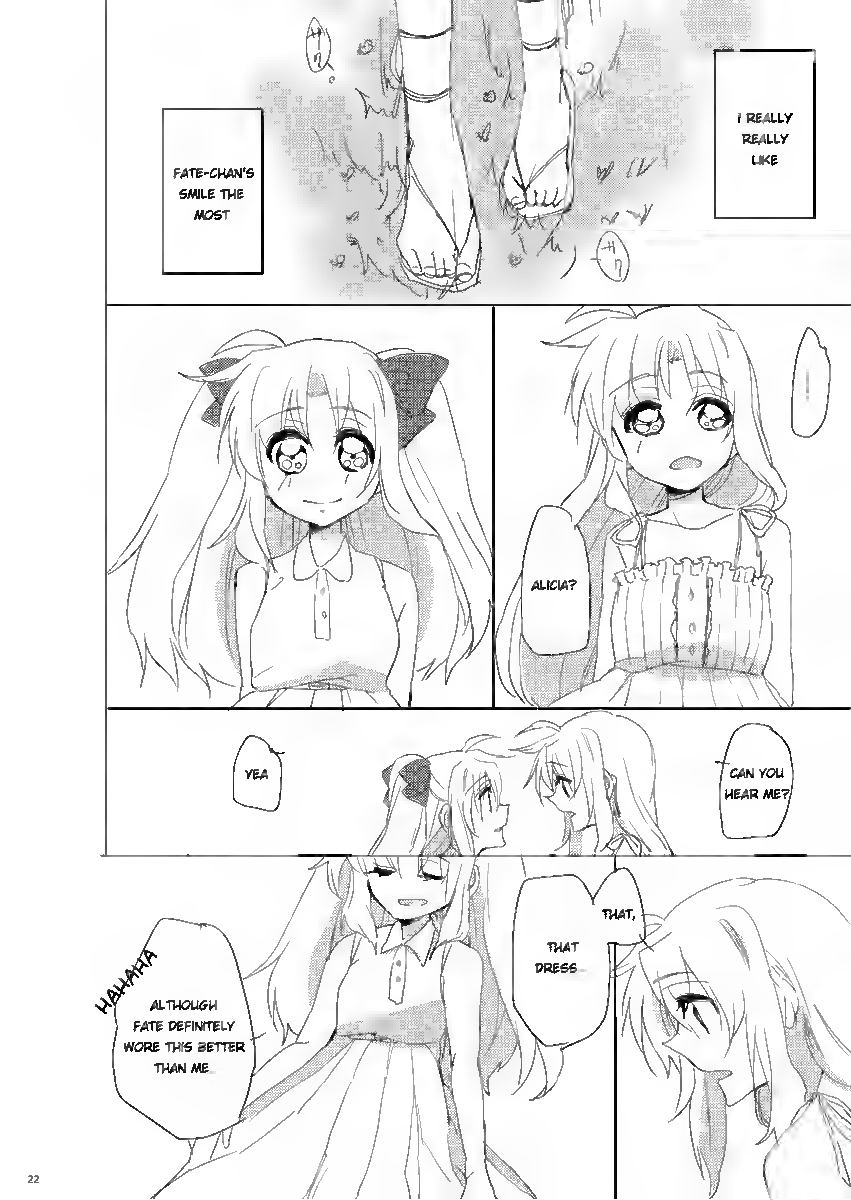
I HAVE GROWN TALLER.
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO THINGS I LIKE AS MY JOB
EVER SINCE THAT INCIDENT
BUT
ALICIA IS STILL THE SAME IN MY DREAM.
SHE STILL LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME AS BEFORE
I AM SCARED
SO SCARED
TO THE POINT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO LOOK HER IN THE EYES

THE PERSON THAT'S BEEN BLOCKING OUT HER VOICE
IT WAS ME ALL ALONG

IT WAS ME
FROM THE MOMENT
I MET THIS GIRL

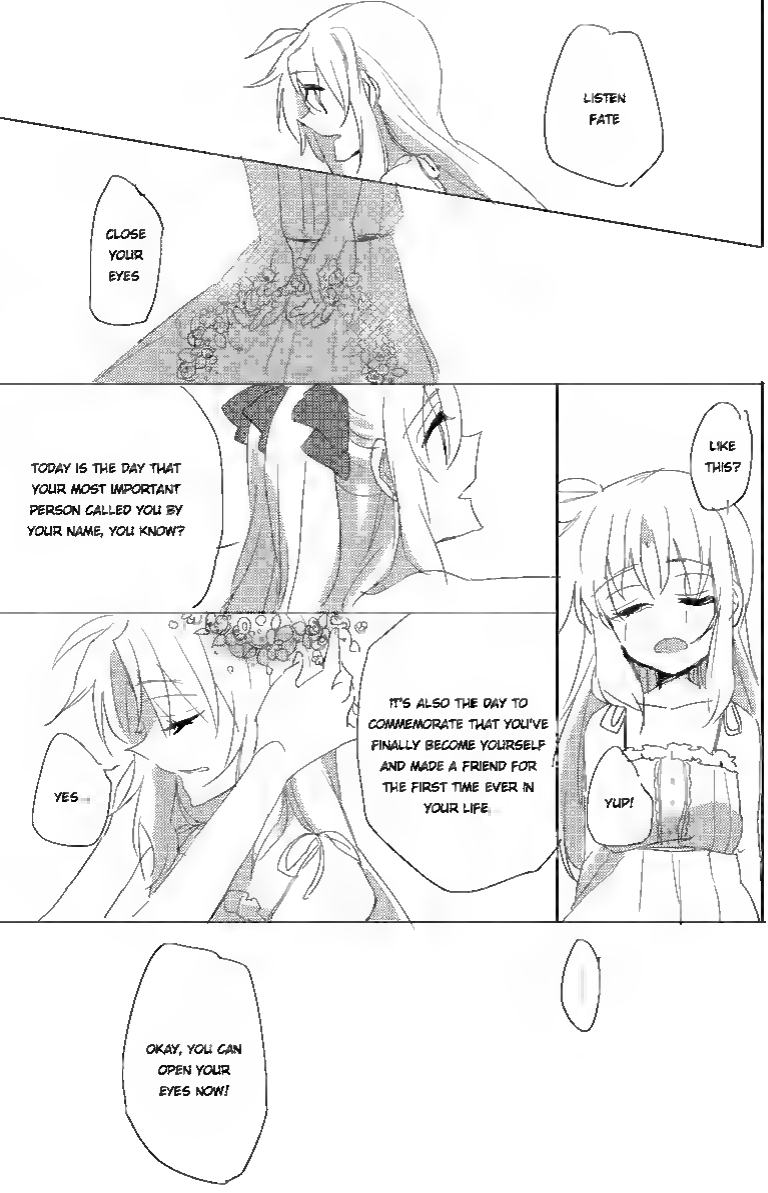
I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE HER.
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

ABOUT FATE-CHAN'S PAST.
BEEN ABLE TO DO ANY-THING
I HAVE NEVER EVER
I AM SORRY, BARDICHE.
DESPITE THAT
I REALLY
DON'T WANT TO GIVE UP NO MATTER WHAT.
KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM FATE-CHAN PLEASE?


I REALLY REALLY LIKE
FATE-CHAN'S SMILE THE MOST
ALICIA?
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YEA
THAT, THAT DRESS...
HAHAHA
ALTHOUGH FATE DEFINITELY WORE THIS BETTER THAN ME...

YOU'VE REALLY
GROWN SO MUCH
YES
MOU, YOU ARE SUCH A CRYBABY!
S-SORRY
U. N
TO HAVE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME
UN
IT'S FINE
EVEN IF YOU ARE STILL A BIG SOFTIE

I'M STILL YOUR BIG SISTER, FATE
—!?
SINCE I COULDN'T LIVE WITH FATE IN THIS WORLD
THAT MUST'VE MADE YOU THINK
ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS ALL ON YOUR OWN, HUH?
THANK YOU.
LIN ...
LET ME JUST SAY THIS ONE THING
BECAUSE I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU NO MATTER WHAT.


LISTEN FATE
CLOSE YOUR EYES
TODAY IS THE DAY THAT YOUR MOST IMPORTANT PERSON CALLED YOU BY YOUR NAME, YOU KNOW?
LIKE THIS?
IT'S ALSO THE DAY TO COMMEMORATE THAT YOU'VE FINALLY BECOME YOURSELF AND MADE A FRIEND FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER IN YOUR LIFE.
YES
YUP!
OKAY, YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES NOW!

AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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